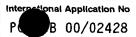


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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

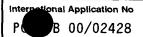
(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference		of Transmittal of International Search Report				
P7057WO CTH	0 CTH ACTION (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.					
International application No.	International filing date (day/month/year)	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year)				
PCT/GB 00/02428	23/06/2000	25/06/1999				
Applicant						
THENTAL COLLEGE OF COTEMO	E TECHNOLOGY AND MEDICINE					
IMERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE	E, TECHNOLOGY AND MEDICINE					
This International Search Banart has been		harity and in transmitted to the applicant				
according to Article 18. A copy is being tra	n prepared by this International Searching Auth ansmitted to the International Bureau.	ionty and is transmitted to the applicant				
This International Course Banart consists	of a social of B about					
This International Search Report consists It is also accompanied by	of a total of sheets. a copy of each prior art document cited in this	report.				
Basis of the report With regard to the language, the	international analytic and partial out on the ha	air of the international analiantian in the				
	international search was carried out on the bas less otherwise indicated under this item.	ыs of the international application in the				
the international search w Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).	vas carried out on the basis of a translation of th	he international application furnished to this				
b. With regard to any nucleotide an		nternational application, the international search				
was carried out on the basis of the X contained in the internation	e sequence listing : onal application in written form.					
=======================================	ernational application in computer readable form	n.				
	this Authority in written form.					
7	this Authority in computer readble form.					
The statement that the sub	osequently furnished written sequence listing do	oes not go beyond the disclosure in the				
· ·		s identical to the written sequence listing has been				
2. X Certain claims were fou	nd unsearchable (See Box I).					
3. Unity of invention is laci	king (see Box II).					
4. With regard to the title ,						
the text is approved as su	bmitted by the applicant.					
<u> </u>	hed by this Authority to read as follows:					
5. With regard to the abstract,						
X the text is approved as su	bmitted by the applicant.					
	hed, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authorite date of mailing of this international search rep					
6. The figure of the drawings to be publ	ished with the abstract is Figure No.					
as suggested by the appli	cant.	X None of the figures.				
because the applicant fail	ed to suggest a figure.	•				
because this figure better	characterizes the invention.					

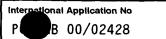


A. CLASSI IPC 7	FICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER C12N15/31 C07K14/33 A61K39/0	08	
According to	to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classific	cation and IPC	
B. FIELDS	SEARCHED		
Minimum do IPC 7	ocumentation searched (classification system followed by classification C12N C07K A61K	ion symbols)	
)	tion searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that s		
Electronic d	data base consulted during the international search (name of data ba	ase and, where practical, search terms used	i)
EPO-In	ternal, WPI Data, PAJ, BIOSIS, EMBAS	SE, MEDLINE, EMBL	
C. DOCUM	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the rel	levant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	FIGUEIREDO D ET AL.: "Characteri recombinant tetanus toxin derivat suitable for vaccine development' INFECTION AND IMMUNITY, vol. 63, no. 8, August 1995 (1995 pages 3218-3221, XP002151794 abstract figures 1,3; table 1 page 3221, left-hand column, line	tives " 5-08),	1-14
X Furth	her documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	Patent family members are listed	in annex.
° Special ca	stegories of cited documents :	"T" later document published after the inte	mational filing date
	ent defining the general state of the art which is not	or priority date and not in conflict with cited to understand the principle or the	the application but
	lered to be of particular relevance document but published on or after the international	invention "X" document of particular relevance; the c	laimed invention
filing d		cannot be considered novel or cannot involve an inventive step when the do	be considered to
which	io aitad ta catabiliah tha muhiliantian data at an aitaa.	"Y" document of particular relevance; the c	laimed invention
ĺ	ent referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or	cannot be considered to involve an involve and ocument is combined with one or mo	ore other such docu-
"P" docume	ent published prior to the international filing date but	ments, such combination being obvious in the art. "&" document member of the same patent if	• •
Date of the	actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international sea	arch report
7	November 2000	22/11/2000	
Name and n	nailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2	Authorized officer	
	NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	van de Kamp, M	

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0.40=====	POCHMENTS CONCIDEDED TO BE DELEVANT	P 8 00/02428
C.(Continu	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Jakegory	Grades. St december, marriculation, miles appropriate, of the felevant passages	Holovan to Gaill No.
X	HALPERN J L ET AL.: "Characterization of the receptor-binding domain of tetanus toxin" JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY, vol. 268, no. 15, 25 May 1993 (1993-05-25), pages 11188-11192, XP002151795	1-8, 11-16
Υ	cited in the application abstract figures 1,3	9,10
Y	EP 0 209 281 A (WELLCOME FOUND) 21 January 1987 (1987-01-21) cited in the application examples 4,8,9 claims 14-16 figure 2	9,10
A	SHAPIRO R E ET AL.: "Identification of a ganglioside recognition domain of tetanus toxin using a novel ganglioside photoaffinity ligand" JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY, vol. 272, no. 48, 28 November 1997 (1997-11-28), pages 30380-30386, XP002151796 cited in the application abstract	1,15,16
А	ANDERSON R ET AL: "Immunization of mice with DNA encoding fragment C of tetanus toxin" VACCINE, vol. 15, no. 8, 1 June 1997 (1997-06-01), pages 827-829, XP004075662 abstract page 827, left-hand column, line 10-28 page 828, right-hand column, line 29-35	1,9,10
Α	WO 94 00487 A (US ARMY) 6 January 1994 (1994-01-06) page 4, line 18 -page 5, line 6 example 5	10,11, 13-15
A	UMLAND T C ET AL.: "Structure of the receptor binding fragment HC of tetanus toxin" NATURE STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY, vol. 4, no. 10, October 1997 (1997-10), pages 788-792, XP000952554 cited in the application abstract page 789, right-hand column, line 1 -page 790, left-hand column, line 22	1,15,16
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C.(Continua Category °	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.		
oalegory "	ontains to accument, with indication, where appropriate, or the relevant passages	nelevani to claim No.		
A	HALPERN J L ET AL.: "Neurospecific binding, internalization, and retrograde axonal transport" CURR. TOP. MICROBIOL. IMMUNOL., vol. 195, 1995, pages 221-241, XP000960426 the whole document	1-16		
T	SINHA K ET AL.: "Analysis of mutants of tetanus toxin HC fragment: ganglioside binding, cell binding and retrograde axonal transport properties" MOLECULAR MICROBIOLOGY, vol. 37, no. 5, September 2000 (2000-09), pages 1041-1051, XP000952564 the whole document	1-16		

on patent family members

Pt 8 00/02428

Patent document cited in search repor	t	Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0209281	A	21-01-1987	AU DK ES FI JP ZA	5941486 A 307986 A 2000255 A 862761 A 62051994 A 8604805 A	08-01-1987 29-12-1986 01-02-1988 29-12-1986 06-03-1987 24-02-1988
WO 9400487	Α	06-01-1994	AU US	4545393 A 5601826 A	24-01-1994 11-02-1997

(19) World Intellectual Property Organizati n International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date 4 January 2001 (04.01.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number WO 01/00839 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: C07K 14/33, A61K 39/08
- C12N 15/31,
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/GB00/02428
- (22) International Filing Date: 23 June 2000 (23.06.2000)
- (25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data: 9914861.1

25 June 1999 (25.06.1999) GB

- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): IMPE-RIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MEDICINE [GB/GB]; Sherfield Building, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2AZ (GB).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): VFAIRWEATHER, Neil, Fraser [GB/GB]; 1 The Drive, Bexley, Kent DA3 3DH (GB). SINHA, Katharine [GB/GB]; Imperial College, Dept. of Biochemistry, South Kensington, London SW7 2AY (GB).

- (74) Agents: HARDING, Charles, Thomas et al.; D Young & Co., 21 New Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1DA (GB).
- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- With international search report.
- Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: TETANUS TOXIN POLYPEPTIDES

(57) Abstract: A polypeptide is provided which polypeptide comprises tetanus toxin (TeNT) fragment C, or an immunogenic fragment thereof, which tetanus toxin fragment C, or immunogenic fragment thereof comprises a mutation in a loop region, which mutation results in: a reduction in the binding of the tetanus toxin fragment C, or immunogenic fragment thereof, to gangliosides; and/or a reduction in the binding of the tetanus toxin fragment C, or immunogenic fragment thereof, to primary motoneurones; and/or a reduction in the ability of the tetanus toxin fragment C, or immunogenic fragment thereof, to undergo retrograde transport.

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Int. onal Application No PCT/GB 00/02428

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A. CLASSIF IPC 7	C12N15/31 C07K14/33 A61K39/0	8	
According to	International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification	tion and IPC	
B. FIELDS			
Minimum do IPC 7	currentation searched (classification system followed by classification C12N C07K A61K	n symbols)	
	ion searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that su		
	ata base consulted during the international search (name of data base ternal, WPI Data, PAJ, BIOSIS, EMBAS		
C. DOCUME	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the rele	evant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	FIGUEIREDO D ET AL.: "Characteri recombinant tetanus toxin derivat suitable for vaccine development" INFECTION AND IMMUNITY, vol. 63, no. 8, August 1995 (1995 pages 3218-3221, XP002151794 abstract figures 1,3; table 1 page 3221, left-hand column, line	ives -08),	1-14
X Fur	ther documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	X Patent family members are listed	in annex.
"A" docum consi "E" earlier filing "L" docum which citatie "O" docum other	ategories of cited documents: ment defining the general state of the art which is not ided to be of particular relevance of document but published on or after the international date of the detection of the det	"T" later document published after the interest or priority date and not in conflict with cited to understand the principle or the invention. "X" document of particular relevance; the cannot be considered novel or cannot involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the cannot be considered to involve an indocument is combined with one or ments, such combination being obvious the art. "&" document member of the same patent	the application but early underlying the claimed invention to considered to coument is taken alone claimed invention ventive step when the one other such docu-us to a person skilled
	e actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international se	arch report
	7 November 2000	22/11/2000 Authorized officer	
, was as to	European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,	van de Kamp. M	

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in onal Application No PCT/GB 00/02428

C (C=-1)	AND DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE SEEN THE	PC1/GB 00/02428		
C.(Continu	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.		
ψ··,	The state of the s	Ligidamir to Admit 140.		
X	HALPERN J L ET AL.: "Characterization of the receptor-binding domain of tetanus toxin" JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY, vol. 268, no. 15, 25 May 1993 (1993-05-25), pages 11188-11192, XP002151795	1-8, 11-16		
Y	cited in the application abstract figures 1,3	9,10		
Y	EP 0 209 281 A (WELLCOME FOUND) 21 January 1987 (1987-01-21) cited in the application examples 4,8,9 claims 14-16 figure 2	9,10		
A	SHAPIRO R E ET AL.: "Identification of a ganglioside recognition domain of tetanus toxin using a novel ganglioside photoaffinity ligand" JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY, vol. 272, no. 48, 28 November 1997 (1997-11-28), pages 30380-30386, XP002151796 cited in the application abstract	1,15,16		
A	ANDERSON R ET AL: "Immunization of mice with DNA encoding fragment C of tetanus toxin" VACCINE, vol. 15, no. 8, 1 June 1997 (1997-06-01), pages 827-829, XP004075662 abstract page 827, left-hand column, line 10-28 page 828, right-hand column, line 29-35	1,9,10		
Α	WO 94 00487 A (US ARMY) 6 January 1994 (1994-01-06) page 4, line 18 -page 5, line 6 example 5	10,11, 13-15		
A	UMLAND T C ET AL.: "Structure of the receptor binding fragment HC of tetanus toxin" NATURE STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY, vol. 4, no. 10, October 1997 (1997-10), pages 788-792, XP000952554 cited in the application abstract page 789, right-hand column, line 1 -page 790, left-hand column, line 22	1,15,16		
	-/			



in ional Application No PCT/GB 00/02428

	PC1/GB 00/02428		
C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE F Category Citation of document, with indication, where a	Relevant to claim No.		
and the second of the second o	- propried of the following participation		Toler VII to Capil 140.
HALPERN J L ET AL.: binding, internalizat axonal transport" CURR. TOP. MICROBIOL. vol. 195, 1995, pages the whole document	ion, and retrograde		1–16
SINHA K ET AL.: "Ana tetanus toxin HC frag binding, cell binding axonal transport prop MOLECULAR MICROBIOLOG vol. 37, no. 5, Septe pages 1041-1051, XP00 the whole document	ment: ganglioside and retrograde erties" Y, mber 2000 (2000-09),		1-16



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

4

information on patent family members

lr	ionai	Application No
PCT/	/GB	00/02428

Patent document cited in search repor	t	Publication date	: !	Patent family member(s)	Publication dat
EP 0209281	Α	21-01-1987	AU	5941486 A	08-01-1987
			DK	307986 A	29-12-1986
			ES	2000255 A	01-02-1988
			FI	862761 A	29-12-1986
			JP	62051994 A	06-03-1987
			ZA	8604805 A	24-02-1988
WO 9400487	Α	06-01-1994	AU	4545393 A	24-01-1994
			US	5601826 A	11-02-1997

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25-06-99 16:25 P.34

Figure 1

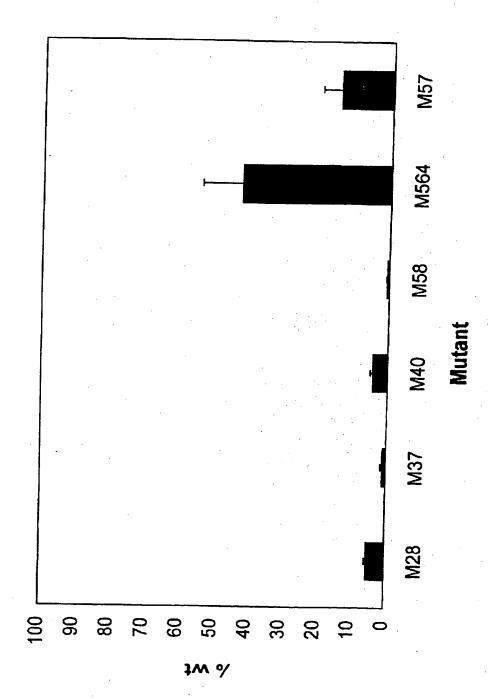
FRX NO.: + 01703 224262



Figure 2

ERX NO.: + 01703 224262

2/2



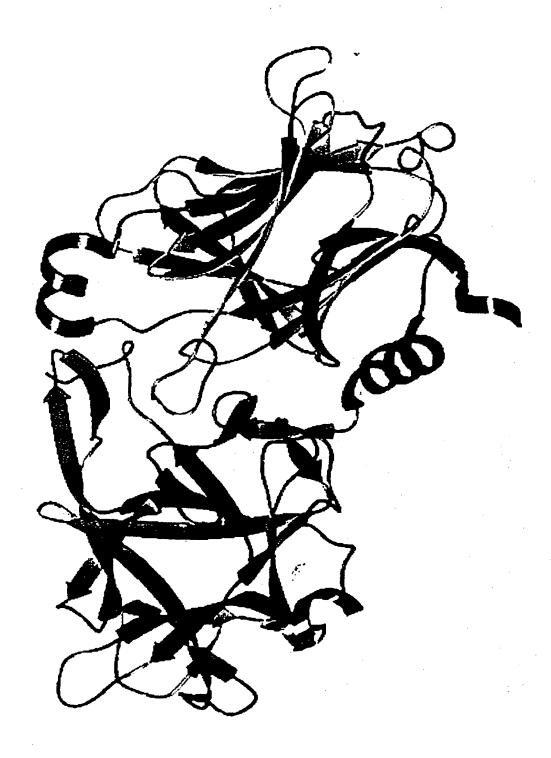
+01703 224262

P.34 R-390 Job-961

25-06-99 16:25 P.34

Figure 1

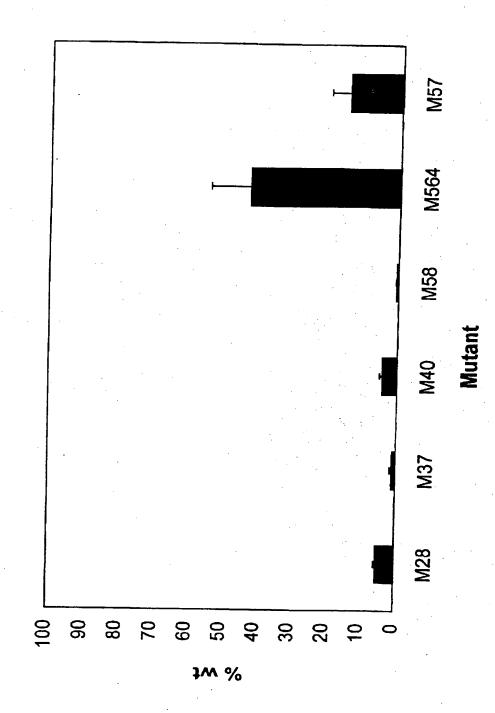
ERX NO.: + 01703 224262



P.35

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FRX NO.: + 01703 224262



TENT COOPERATION TREETY

PCT

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or a	gent's file reference	<u> </u>	
P7057WO C	-	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International ap	plication No.	International filing date (day/mor	nth/year) Priority date (day/month/year)
PCT/GB00/0	2428	23/06/2000	25/06/1999
International Pa C12N15/31	tent Classification (IPC) or na	tional classification and IPC	
Applicant In		TECHNOLOGY AND MEDIC	DINE
	national preliminary exam nsmitted to the applicant a		ed by this International Preliminary Examining Authority
2. This REP	ORT consists of a total of	7 sheets, including this cover	sheet.
been	amended and are the bas		the description, claims and/or drawings which have containing rectifications made before this Authority tions under the PCT).
These and	nexes consist of a total of	sheets.	
3. This repor	t contains indications rela	ting to the following items:	
1 ⊠	Basis of the report		
ıı ⊏	Priority		
III ⊠	Non-establishment of o	pinion with regard to novelty, ir	nventive step and industrial applicability
l∨ □	Lack of unity of invention	on	
V ⊠		nder Article 35(2) with regard to ons suporting such statement	o novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
VI □	Certain documents cite	ed	
VII 🗆	Certain defects in the in	ternational application	
VIII ⊠	Certain observations or	n the international application	
Date of submiss	ion of the demand	Date o	f completion of this report
05/01/2001		18.09.2	2001
preliminary exan	•	Authori	ized officer
a))) D-8	ropean Patent Office 80298 Munich . +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656	Hube	r, A
Fax	c: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Teleph	one No. +49 89 2399 8173

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB00/02428

 Basis of the 	r	D	rt
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1.	With regard to the elements of the international application (Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)): Description, pages:						
	1-3	3	as originally filed				
	Cla	ims, No.:					
	1-1	6	as originally filed				
	Drawings, sheets:						
	1/2	-2/2	as originally filed				
	Sec	Sequence listing part of the description, pages:					
	1-9,	1-9, filed with the letter of 11.08.2000					
2.	With regard to the language , all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.						
	The	ese elements were a	available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:				
		the language of a	translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).				
		the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).					
		the language of a 55.2 and/or 55.3).	translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule				
 With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing: 							
		contained in the in	ternational application in written form.				
		filed together with	the international application in computer readable form.				
	\boxtimes	furnished subsequ	ently to this Authority in written form.				
	\boxtimes	furnished subsequ	ently to this Authority in computer readable form.				
	×		t the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in oplication as filed has been furnished.				
	×	The statement that listing has been fu	t the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence rnished.				

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB00/02428

٧.	Rea	soned statement und	der Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;			
			e form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.			
		the written form has r	not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.			
2.	. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:					
		no international searc	ch report has been established for the said claims Nos			
		the claims, or said cla	aims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion			
		the description, claim that no meaningful of	ns or drawings (indicate particular elements below) or said claims Nos. are so unclear pinion could be formed (specify):			
	×	the said international which does not requi see separate sheet	application, or the said claims Nos. 11, 13, 14 (IA) relate to the following subject matte re an international preliminary examination (<i>specify</i>):			
be	ecaus	se:				
	×	claims Nos. 11, 13, 1	4 (IA).			
		the entire internation				
١.	obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:					
	 I. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non- 					
	N.					
6.	Add	ditional observations,	if necessary:			
		(Any replacement st report.)	neet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this			
		considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):				
5.	. 🗆	This report has beer	n established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have bee			
		the drawings,	sheets:			
		the claims,	Nos.:			
		the description,	pages:			

citations and explanations supporting such statement

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY **EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB00/02428

1. Statement

Novelty (N)

Yes: Claims 4

No:

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 15, 16

Inventive step (IS)

Yes:

Claims 4

No:

Claims 10-14

Industrial applicability (IA)

Yes:

Claims 1-10, 12, 15, 16

No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made: see separate sheet

Re Item III

Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

Claims 11, 13 and 14 relate to subject-matter considered by this Authority to be covered by the provisions of Rule 67.1(iv) PCT. Consequently, no opinion will be formulated with respect to the industrial applicability of the subject-matter of these claims (Article 34(4)(a)(i) PCT).

For the assessment of the above claims on the question whether they are industrially applicable, no unified criteria exist in the PCT Contracting States. The patentability can also be dependent upon the formulation of the claims. The EPO, for example, does not recognize as industrially applicable the subject-matter of claims to the use of a compound in medical treatment, but may allow, however, claims to a known compound for first use in medical treatment and the use of such a compound for the manufacture of a medicament for a new medical treatment.

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

- 1. Reference is made to the following documents:
 - D1: FIGUEIREDO D ET AL.: 'Characterization of recombinant tetanus toxin derivatives suitable for vaccine development' INFECTION AND IMMUNITY. vol. 63, no. 8, August 1995 (1995-08), pages 3218-3221, XP002151794
 - D2: HALPERN J L ET AL.: 'Characterization of the receptor-binding domain of tetanus toxin' JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY, vol. 268, no. 15, 25 May 1993 (1993-05-25), pages 11188-11192, XP002151795 cited in the application

 D1 discloses recombinant tetanus toxin derivatives suitable for vaccine development. Immunogenic derivatives of fragment C that have lost the ability to bind neurons and which lack C-terminal amino acids are described (e.g. TetC 1-180; TetC 1-271).

The polypeptide of Claim 1 is defined as comprising fragment C or an immunogenic fragment thereof, wherein said fragment C (or immunogenic fragment thereof) **comprises** a mutation in a loop region, thus the mutation must not be limited to a loop region.

The immunogenic mutants of D1 are also mutated within a loop region and exhibit reduced neuron binding.

The subject-matter of Claims 1-3 and 5-9 is therefore anticipated by the teaching of D1 (Art. 33(2) PCT).

Claims 10-14 are directed to a vaccine comprising a polypeptide of Claims 1-14, a polynucleotide according to Claim 5 or a vector according to Claim 6, methods of treating, preventing or reducing the susceptibility to C. tetani infection by administration of the polypeptide, polynucleotide or vector, the use thereof for preparing antibodies, a method for producing antibodies and a method of treating C. tetani infection by administration of said antibodies. The use of the fragment C derivatives of D1 for vaccine development, in particular of those derivatives that do not bind neurons is clearly suggested in D1. The subject-matter of Claim 10-14 therefore lacks the required inventive step (Art. 33(3) PCT).

D2 describes the involvement of the carboxy-terminal half of heavy chain (C fragment) of tetanus toxin in ganglioside and neuron binding. Deletion of 10 or more C-terminal amino acids resulted in a complete loss of ganglioside binding. Deletion mutant Hc1-435 comprises deletion of at least one amino acid residue within a loop region (aa 1282). D2 is therefore novelty-destroying for the subject-matter of Claims 1-3, 5, 15 and 16.

Claim 4 is directed to specific deletion mutants of TeNT fragment C, which have neither been disclosed nor rendered obvious in the cited documents. Novelty and inventive step of the subject-matter of Claim 4 are therefore acknowledged.

Re It m VIII

Certain observations on the international application

Claim 16 is directed to a polypeptide produced by the method of Claim 15. Claim 15 is, however, not directed to a method of producing a polypeptide but concerns a method for reducing the binding affinity of a TeNT fragment C polypeptide comprising modifying one or more amino acids of said polypeptide. Claim 16 is therefore not correctly dependent on Claim 15. It should also be noted that a polypeptide with reduced binding affinity to gangliosides in which one or more amino acids in a surface exposed loop region of TeNT fragment C are modified is already covered by Claim 1. Claim 16 therefore appears to be redundant.

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

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US Department of Commerce
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Office, PCT
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